

WEEKLY MEDITATION for the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

History is littered with stories of good tenants and wicked landlords. In today's Gospel we have a story of wicked tenants and a good landlord.

What the tenants in the parable did was ugly and sinful, yet God did not abandon or destroy the vineyard. He handed it over to others who would produce the fruits. Thus a new building came into being—the new peo-

ple of God. Jesus, the one they rejected and killed, is the cornerstone of this new building (the Church).

God never retaliated, never returned evil for evil. He was not vindictive in taking the vineyard from the Jews and giving it to the Gentiles. The tenants brought it on themselves. God never gave up on his people. Just as the rain ensures that the

earth
becomes
fruitful,
so God
persists
until he



gets a response. Christ challenges us, the 'tenants' of the 'new vineyard', to produce the fruits of justice, love, and peace.

WISDOM'S CORNER

Planted by God

Lord, you planted me on this earth.

You built a fence around me with the love of family and friends.

Their care towered over me.

In the shelter of this tower I grew in safety and peace.

I put out early blossoms.

I filled up with leaves.

People had great hopes for me.

You had great hopes for me.

But now the years of my life are passing.

The harvest is approaching.

What fruit have I to show?

What if, after all this care, I had nothing to offer but sour grapes?

May you, Lord, have mercy on me, and with your patient urging help me to produce the fruits of love!

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

**"There is only one way to overcome evil,
and that is with good."**



PASTOR'S DESK

Greed, Greed, Greed

These days as we watch TV and follow the news, we are all witnesses to the financial condition of our country while the status quo is caving in upon itself. Banks are failing, investment funds are dwindling, credit is diminishing, corporate heads are walking away with large sums of money. The regular person suffers!

If we wished to express the whole situation in just one word, that word would be GREED. It is beyond comprehension how some people never have enough, regardless of how much they already have. Words and promises no longer carry much weight. No one seems to worry about the other guy. It's as if he doesn't even exist. How can there be fellowship among people, among families, when the wealthy are not interested in the welfare of the working class and the poor? It is unfortunate that we are not in the position where our country is being talked about for its charity, unselfishness, and concern for others. What a pity! And all because of the human greediness and excess. How much does a person need to live a normal life? What happens to our spirituality, to the spirit within us that compels us not to be selfish? Whatever happened to our fear of the Lord?

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The year 2008-2009 is the 800th year

!

Our Newly Baptized

We welcome two new little souls into our parish community.

Christening

William Paul Babich, son of Matthew and Anna (n. Kristulovich) Babich, whose godparents are John and Laura Perseghin

Mia Elizabeth Schallmo, daughter of Richard and Jennifer (n. Kristulovich) Schallmo, whose godparents are Thomas Schallmo and Katherine Marchetti

Congratulations to the families, and God bless William and Mia.

Special collection this weekend

This weekend (October 4) we celebrate the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the founder of the Franciscan Order. As is already our tradition for this feast, there will be a **second collection for the benefit of our Franciscans**, the upkeep of our Franciscan institutions, and general expenses.

Parish headcount at October Masses

Each year during October, a count of those who attend Mass is taken in all Catholic parishes in the United States. This is done for the purpose of obtaining local and universal church statistics. This is also an opportunity to renew our faithfulness to attending Holy Mass every Sunday (or Saturday evening).

Collect Your Spare Change in Baby Bottles to Help Moms Choose Life: Remember how our parish collected more than \$3,000.00 in coins last year to help moms with crisis pregnancies? October is "Respect Life Month," so we will again be collecting spare change in baby bottles to help the Women's Centers of Chicagoland inform and assist expectant mothers in dire need. *Pick up your baby bottles in the back of the Church.*

New Chairs for the Parish Hall have been purchased. The **old metal chairs** are now **available** for anyone who would like to come and take some. Please call the rectory to let us know that you want some, and to make arrangements to come for them. These chairs are in the school hallway, waiting to be taken.



SCHOOL NEWS

St. Jerome School's Autumn Fest

Save the date: Saturday, October 25, from 3 p.m.-7 p.m. Come out and enjoy the day, filled with family fun, music, games, good food, BBQ hot dogs, brats and burgers, tasty treats, beer, wine and soft drinks. An old fashion cake walk, a pumpkin patch and DH. More information to come. Sponsored by the St. Jerome H.S.A.

St. Jerome School Sports Association

It is time to place those orders for the delicious Affy Tapple Carmel Apples. Halloween is just around the corner and you may be looking for some special treats. This year we will also be selling 5.5 punde bags of Carmel Corn. Orders will be taken through October 17th. Plain and peanuts apples will be offered this year. Order form you may find in the school office or the back of the church.

Books, Books...

St. Jerome School will be holding its **annual book fair** on October 9th following our **Grandparents Mass**. Grandparents and parents are welcome to attend with their children and purchase books. Cash, checks, and credit cards are accepted. All are welcome.

Parish Council Meeting is this Monday, October 5 at 7:30 p.m.

St. Jerome's family prayer time: every evening between 6—7 P.M.



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